

Introduced by Senator McPherson

February 21, 2003

An act to add Article 6.3 (commencing with Section 69439.3) to Chapter 1.7 of Part 42 of the Education Code, relating to student financial aid.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 680, as introduced, McPherson. Student financial aid: Ortiz-Pacheco-Poochigian-Vasconcellos Cal Grant Program: Cal Grant M Awards.

Existing law, known as the Ortiz-Pacheco-Poochigian-Vasconcellos Cal Grant Act, establishes the Cal Grant A and B entitlement awards, the California Community College Transfer Entitlement awards, the Competitive Cal Grant A and B awards, the Cal Grant C awards, and the Cal Grant T awards under the administration of the Student Aid Commission, and establishes eligibility requirements for awards under these programs for participating students attending qualifying institutions.

This bill would express legislative findings and declarations and legislative intent with respect to calculating high school grade point averages for the Cal Grant Program and revising the Cal Grant C Program. The bill would establish, commencing in an unspecified fiscal year, the Cal Grant M Program awards to defray the cost of tuition and mandatory systemwide fees for nontraditional, returning, and older adult students.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares both of the following:

(1) California's student population is composed of individuals from varied cultures with diverse needs, and the current Cal Grant system has not adequately addressed those needs, nor has it provided sufficient access to available financial aid.

(2) The Governor, the Legislature, and the Student Aid Commission must improve the current Cal Grant competitive award programs by better tailoring them to meet the unique needs of California's students.

(b) It is, therefore, the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to accomplish all of the following:

(1) Develop a new definition and methodology for calculating, for the purposes of the Cal Grant Program, the high school grade point average in a manner that is more commonly and readily used by high schools and colleges.

(2) Revise the Cal Grant C Program so that it more clearly focuses on the unique needs of students pursuing vocational and technical education programs.

(3) Establish a Cal Grant M Program, with the "M" standing for "mature," specifically to meet the needs of nontraditional, returning, and older adult students.

SEC. 2. Article 6.3 (commencing with Section 69439.3) is added to Chapter 1.7 of Part 42 of the Education Code, to read:

Article 6.3. Cal Grant M Program

69439.3. Commencing with the _____ academic year, Cal Grant M awards shall be used to defray the cost of tuition and mandatory systemwide fees for nontraditional, returning, and older adult students.